

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 /057 W

----- 042289

R 021328Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 0024

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: AHAM ON DAY FOLLOWING FAHMY'S RETURN

1. ON DEC 31, DAY FOLLOWING FAHMY'S RETURN FROM MOSCOW, AHAM FEATURED LARGE PICTURE OF BROADLY-SMILING PRESIDENT SADAT SHAKING HANDS WITH AMB EILTS. OVER TO SIDE WAS SMALL PHOTO OF FAHMY AND GAMASY GIVING THEIR ORAL REPORT TO SADAT.
2. IN ACCOMPANYING STORY, AHAM REPORTER SAID BREZHNEV HAD RECEIVED FAHMY FROM SICK BED.
3. COMMENT: EXTRAORDINARY PLACEMENT OF PICTURES ON FRONT PAGE OF AHAM(WHICH IS OFTEN USED AS VEHICLE FOR GOE LEAKS) IS BEING READ AS A SIGNAL OF USG-GOE FRIENDSHIP, WITH IMPLICATIONS THAT GOE/USSR RELATIONSHIP IS ON ROCKS. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT NEITHER AHAM STORY NOR FRONTPAGE LAYOUT WAS AUTHORIZED BY GOE AND RESULTS FROM GOOF BY MININFO WHO APPARENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD INSTRUCTIONS TO PLAY UP MOSCOW VISIT AND TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT BREZHNEV'S ILLNESS. SOVIET EMBASSY IS REPORTEDLY FURIOUS AND HAS COMPLAINED TO GOE ABOUT HANDLING OF STORY. FAHMY IS ALSO FURIOUS AND HAS RAISED CANE WITH AHAM EDITORS. FAHMY, SIRRI AND AL-BAZ HAVE
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SEPARATELY TOLD US ABOUT TROUBLE AHAM LAYOUT HAS CAUSED FOR THEM

WITH SOVIETS.

4. FORTUITOUSLY, WE SEEM TO BE COMING OUT REMARKABLE WELL ON THIS WHOLE MATTER. WHEN MARWAN TOLD AMBASSADOR OF POSTPONEMENT BREZHNEV VISIT, HE COMMENTED "YOU AMERICANS AGAIN SEEM TO HAVE THE LORD ON YOUR SIDE." AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM ALL OF US "BELIEVERS" HAVE HIM ON OUR SIDE, AS HE OUGHT TO KNOW. AFTER AHRAH STORY, MARWAN IS LIKELY TO BECOME A MORE DEVOUT BELIEVER HIMSELF.
EILTS

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NNN

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